



DC COMMISSION ON THE ARTS & HUMANITIES

MINUTES

DC COMMISSION ON THE ARTS & HUMANITIES REGULAR MEETING MONDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2021

Call to Order

The regular monthly meeting of the Commission on the Arts and Humanities was called to order at 5:31 pm, Monday, December 20, 2021, in open session via the Cisco Webex virtual meeting platform, with Chairperson Reggie Van Lee presiding. The meeting was livestreamed to the Commission's YouTube channel for public viewing.

Roll Call

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Reggie Van Lee, *Chairperson*; Stacie Lee Banks; Cora Masters Barry; Maggie Fitzpatrick; Rhona Wolfe Friedman; Alma H. Gates; Natalie Hopkinson; Kymber Menkiti; Carla Sims; Hector Torres; José Alberto Uclés; Gretchen B. Wharton

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Quanice, Floyd; MaryAnn Miller; Maria Rooney; Cicie Sattarnilasskorn; Derek Younger

STAFF ATTENDEES:

Heran Sereke-Brhan, *Executive Director*; David Markey, *Deputy Director*; J. Carl Wilson, *General Counsel*; Lauren Dugas Glover, *Public Art Manager*; Brian Allende, *Resource Allocation Officer*; Jeffrey Scott, *Chief of Staff*; Patrick Realiza, *Social Media Specialist*

Quorum

A quorum was determined to be present.

Land Acknowledgment

The Chair read the acknowledgment of the ancestral lands of the Nacotchtank and Piscataway Peoples.

Adoption of the Agenda

The meeting's agenda was adopted by unanimous consent.

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the November 15, 2021, regular meeting and the November 23, 2021 special meeting were both approved by unanimous consent.

Welcome

Chairperson Van Lee welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Chair noted that all speakers during board meetings would introduce themselves with a self-description as part of ongoing efforts to be more inclusive and accessible to visually limited communities.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Director's Report

Executive Director Sereke-Brhan presented the Director's Report on recent agency activities. Anti-bias training offered by the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies has been completed for executive and

general staff and board members. On Thursday, December 9, 2021, CAH hosted a closing reception for the *DC Art Now 2021* exhibition of Art Bank finalist artworks. The reception was also a celebration of the 35th anniversary and 3,000 artworks of the Art Bank Collection. In January, CAH will launch a new season of our community engagement programs: Business of the Arts, Artist Showcase, and CAH in the Community.

Committee Reports

Finance

Finance Committee Chair Kymber Menkiti presented the Finance Committee Report, stating that future reports would present deeper dives into the agency's budget for increased transparency.

Grants

Grants Committee Chair Gretchen Wharton presented the Grants Committee Report, stating that 70% of the 728 grants award to date had been processed, the grants revamping process was underway with a focus on capacity building and incorporating Task Force recommendations into grantmaking, and that General Operating Support (GOS) grants would be launching in late January 2022 with project-based grants launching in early May 2022.

Public Art

Public Art Committee Chair Maggie Fitzpatrick gave the Public Art Committee Report, stating that 73 grants totaling approximately \$900,000 in funding had been awarded to date in FY22, panel diversity had improved, an assessment of the 3,000 artworks in the Art Bank was underway, and that CAH continues to work with the DC Department of Transportation (DDOT) on the Color the Curb pedestrian safety project.

Arts Education

Arts Education Committee Chair Hector Torres gave the Arts Education Committee Report, stating that CAH has launched Create and Thrive!, a six-month pilot program that provides professional development to local teaching artists who are interested in learning more about effectively engaging the District's older adults, a two-day poetry festival titled Words on Fire will be presented in March to include the NEA's annual Poetry Out Loud competition, and that CAH will offer a program series on best practices in inclusion, diversity, equity, and access for arts education providers.

IDEA

Commissioner Cora Masters Barry presented the IDEA Committee Report on behalf of Committee Chair Quanice Floyd, stating that the committee has been going through the recommendations individually and coming up with goals and benchmarks for each, curating a list of equity workshops, working with the ad hoc communications committee to develop a strategy for a public release of an equity statement to start a campaign of transparency and reconciliation between the Commission and our communities, and discussing redistricting and how that will effect reporting of where grant monies go.

Bylaws

Bylaws Committee Chair Rhona Friedman gave the Bylaws Committee Report, stating that work on the revised CAH bylaws is in progress and the committee should have a draft in January, which upon completion, will be submitted to the full Commission for review, discussion, and approval.

New Business

There was no new business.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Chair Van Lee adjourned the meeting at 6:21 pm.

Minutes approved this 24th day of January 2022